

# TOWN OF HERNDON

*Enriching the Quality of Life and Promoting a Sense of Community*



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **TOWN OF HERNDON PARTICIPATES IN REGION-WIDE EXERCISE TO ASSESS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Herndon, VA (April 26, 2007) – The Town of Herndon joined municipalities throughout Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland and the federal government by participating in a simulated hurricane exercise designed to enact and assess emergency preparedness systems throughout the region.

Mayor Stephen J. DeBenedittis and town staff from the departments of Town Management, Police, Town Attorney, Public Works, Community Development, Public Information, Information Technology and the Town Clerk's office participated in the six-hour exercise, during which all departments worked together in response to simulated hurricane-induced emergencies. Part of the exercise, which simulated a 24-hour period, included a shift change; Councilmember William B. Tirrell, Sr., assumed the role of acting Mayor as part of the shift change simulation.

Additionally, the Town's participation coordinated responses with other exercise participants throughout the region via WebEOC, a portal that facilitates multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency communications and coordination in the event of an emergency.

DeBenedittis was impressed with the level of preparedness and coordinated response demonstrated by the participants. “The object of the exercise was to identify areas where we can enhance our emergency preparedness systems, and that was accomplished,” he said. “But, more importantly, the exercise demonstrated that Herndon has the systems in place to respond effectively and efficiently in the event of an emergency.”

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 23,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people. In 2006, Herndon was named one of the “best affordable suburbs” in the nation by *Business Week* Magazine.

For more information, visit the Town’s website at [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov).

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